

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Changes in Reichsbahn Telephone Network  
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1. Upon secret orders from the Soviet Military Administration in Karlshorst the Reichsbahndirektion began making plans in September 1949 for the relocation, expansion and overall maintenance of the telephone network in the area between Berlin and the Western Zone border, the network known as the "Basa system". While several Reichsbahndirektionen were involved, that of Magdeburg was given overall responsibility for effecting the relaying of cables. The Magdeburg office is under President Fehse (fmu), who is a former accountant.
2. The official reason given for the planned changes is to increase the safety of the system through modernization; the real reason, supposedly known only to the Soviet and Reichsbahn authorities immediately concerned, is the planned disconnecting of the Western Sectors of Berlin from the Reichsbahn telephone network, thus severing direct telephone connection between these sectors and the Western Zone.
3. The Soviets originally set 1 August 1949 as the completion date for the changes, but this date could not be met and was subsequently extended to 1 September 1949.
4. The work schedule for the changes is divided into Stages A through F:

a. Stage A:

Dismantling of the present telephone central office in the Reichsbahndirektion in Berlin and its reinstallation in a newly-constructed room under the express train platform at the Schlesischer Bahnhof. The new central office will be called "Basa Osten". This work was in progress as of August 1949.

b. Stage B:

For the most part, the long-distance cables in the network run in ducts along the Reichsautobahnen from the various Reichsdirektionen to Berlin. The cables meet in the Brandenburger Dreieck northwest of Potsdam and run from there in a trunk cable line along the railroad bed of the railroad line Grosskreuz-Verder-Potsdam-Neufinkenkrug-Spandau-Stadtbahn-Anhalter Bahnhof, and from the

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last-named to the telephone central office in the Reichsbahndirektion in Berlin-Schöneberg. Stage B will change this course and new cables will be laid to run from the Brandenburger Dreieck, where there is a cable house with a booster installation, along the Autobahn Cross-Berliner Ringsüdseite in an easterly direction to Zeuthen; from here on the cables follow the railroad bed on the line Königswusterhausen-Berlin and lead via Treptow-Südring-Stadtbahn to the Schlesiischer Bahnhof, where they lead into the new telephone office. Thus, the cable house at Brandenburger Dreieck is the most vulnerable point of the Reichsbahn long-distance cable network in the part of the Eastern Zone lying west of Berlin. When all the changes in the network are completed it will be possible to disconnect the trunk line to Berlin-Schöneberg at the Brandenburger Dreieck, thus severing Reichsbahn telephone connections between the Western Sectors of Berlin and the Western Zone. The new Reichsbahn cable trunk line to "Basa Osten" can be connected at the same point.

c. Stage C:

Replacement of worn-out cables on the secondary sections of the network. This work is 80 percent completed.

d. Stage D:

Installation of disconnecting stations along all Autobahnen that have long-distance cable ducts. These stations are rooms through which the cable lines run, with the controls so arranged that individual cable cords or the whole line may be disconnected. Similar stations are being installed in each railroad station for disconnecting lines that run along railroad tracks. This work is 70 percent completed.

e. Stage E:

Installation of control stations at the nearest point before lines cross into the Western Zone. These stations are located about one kilometer from the zonal border and are in effect cable houses through which the lines pass enclosed in lead couplings. This stage has already been completed. The Berlin-Stendal-Übischfelde-Hannover-Köln cable goes through to Übischfelde, where it leads to a cable distributing or disconnecting room.

f. Stage F:

Inspection and modernization of the two most important Reichsbahn long-distance cable junction points. These points, both of which have booster installations, are located in Hermendorf, southeast of Erfurt, and in Dessau. This work is now 70 percent completed.

5. All the cables involved in the above operations are Puyin telephone cables, 120 cords.

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